

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 596

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Margaret Lindsley
Warden of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Margaret Lindsley Warden; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Warden was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Lindsley Warden was born on January 11, 1904, to C.C. Warden, M.D., of Battle Creek, Michigan, and Annie Lindsley Warden of Nashville. Ms. Warden was a lifelong resident of Nashville, except for a short period following her birth; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Warden enjoyed a heritage rich in Nashville history as a descendent of early educators Philip Lindsley (President of the University of Nashville) and Jacob McGavock (prominent landowner and friend of Andrew Jackson), both of whom were maternal great-grandfathers; and

WHEREAS, she graduated from Ward-Belmont's high school department in 1920, and its junior college in 1922, and earned her bachelor's degree from Peabody College in 1924; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Warden developed a love of horses early in life and made a career of promoting horsemanship and equestrian activities as an employee of *The Tennessean*, beginning in 1925 when she petitioned Col. Luke Lea, publisher and cousin by marriage, to let her write a weekly column and report on Nashville-area equestrian activities under the pen name of "Cade," a famous racehorse; and

WHEREAS, in 1939, she began writing her weekly column, *Horse Sense*, which ran for fifty-five years until her retirement on June 27, 1994, after sixty-nine extraordinary years on the reporter's beat; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, Ms. Warden founded the Middle Tennessee Pony Club, an organization where riders learned the basics of the "international style" in order to compete in major events such as the Olympic Games; and

WHEREAS, for a number of years, she estimably served on the Board of Directors of the U.S. Equestrian Team, the private organization which selects and supports the international teams representing the United States; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Warden's interests also included the promotion of civic organizations and historic preservation; she was a founding member of the Nashville Opera Guild in 1935 and the Historical Commission of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, as chairman of the Historical Commission, she was instrumental in the development of the annual Architectural Award program, which was launched in May of 1973, and was a leader in the effort to save Belle Meade Plantation, later serving as chairman of the Belle Meade Board; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Warden was a faithful member of First Presbyterian Church in Nashville, which she joined at the age of ten and, for the rest of her active life, she sat in pew 111, the same pew her great-grandfather Jacob McGavock had rented; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Margaret Warden was named the recipient of the Tennessee Horse Council's Horseperson of the Year Award, an award that would later be named after Ms. Warden; and

WHEREAS, John Seigenthaler, publisher emeritus of *The Tennessean*, recently said of Ms. Warden, "More than anybody else, she established Nashville as a place where horsemanship was respected and admired." Mr. Seigenthaler also wrote the foreword for Margaret Warden's autobiography, *Life Has Been Very Kind to Me*, which was published in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Lindsley Warden leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional equestrian, writer, public servant, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory Margaret Lindsley Warden, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Ms. Warden.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.